Quakers: U.S. Police State Near

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The American Friends' Service Committee, the first, and until recently, the only registered church lobby, has charged that the United States is "in close danger of developing the very police state we as a people fear so much."

The warning by the Quaker agency on Capitol Hill was made after it revealed that government agencies have been keeping it under surveillance since 1921.

The Quaker committee thus far has collected nearly 1,300 pages on itself from government intelligence agencies under the new Freedom of Information Act.

THE ORGANIZATION was formed in 1917 by all branches of the Religious Society of Friends, and by 1921, the FOI reports indicate, it was under the watch of the FBI, with other groups following.

The lobby group, which for years has been issuing a detailed report on U.S. military spending, says in a new publication, "Freedom for Americans: 1976," that its activities in behalf of pacifism have brought it "from time to time into conflict with those who confuse dissent with disloyalty, and who believe that efforts to achieve better international relations must be 'Communist-inspired.'

"Accusations that we are infiltrated by or being used by Communists is an old story. Since our earliest relief work we have often been investigated by the FBI or the attorney general's office, only to be inevitably 'cleared' as a genuinely religious, humanitarian organization."

PAUL BRINK, a press spokesman for the Quaker lobby, said there are at least 20 government agencies amassing files on civilians and civilian groups.

He said the FBI and CIA are lending support to police state fears by planting agent-provacateurs and in using state police, local police and local "red squads" in the process of spying, theft, and in some cases, destruction of property and risk of lives.

The Quakers reported they had obtained 365 pages of documents from the FBI, about 190 from the Air Force, 396 from the CIA, 88 from the Navy, 141 from the Internal Revenue Service, and 66 from the Secret Service. The State Department, Defense Department and the Army also responded.

THE DEFENSE Intelligence Agency (DIA) took a year to respond, the Quakers reported, and then only with a single "declassified in part" document bearing only the name of the Quaker lobby.

But a Quaker spokesman said it is known through congressional hearing testimony that the National Security Agency provided a "watch list" which included the lobby to the DIA and five other governmental agencies.